

November 3, 2008

**McCRACKEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOCAL/STATE BOARD FACILITIES HEARING REPORT
AMENDMENT NO. 2**

A Local/State public hearing was held at the McCracken County Board of Education Office on November 3, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. (local time). The purpose of the public hearing was to amend the District Facility Plan developed by the McCracken County Local Planning Committee. The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted 12-6 in favor of the proposed new plan and the Board voted 5-0 to approve the new plan.

There were (194) one hundred ninety-four individuals in attendance. Brian Harper, Principal, served as the district-appointed hearing officer. Tim Heller, Superintendent, was present.

COMMENTS

Mr. Harper called the public hearing to order. The hearing officer outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. It was also noted that all considerations will be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. The hearing officer read the proposed new District Facility Plan that included **changing the school organizations to P-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The capital construction priorities will be to construct a new high school to consolidate all district high schools. According to the plan the new high school would have a student capacity of 1,600 students. There would be major renovation/additions of Hendron Lone Oak Elementary, major renovation/additions of Lone Oak Middle School, major renovation of Heath Middle School, and major renovation of Lone Oak High School. Capital construction priorities for 2C projects include major renovation/additions of Heath Elementary, major renovation/additions of Reidland Middle School, major renovation/additions of Farley Elementary School, major renovation/additions to Reidland High School, and major renovation/additions of Heath High School.**

The floor was opened to those who wished to make a statement. There were **(107) one hundred seven** individuals who spoke against consolidation. Listed are the people who spoke and a summary of their comments. **Tony Crane:** Research says small schools improve student achievement. He asked 16 people to ask people their opinions on consolidation; **Diane O'Brien:** asked the audience if anyone was in favor of consolidation; and no one answered. She then read a statement that is attached to this report; **Gerald Watkins:** Coal Liquid Plant could increase student enrollment in McCracken County Schools. College retention studies show that students not participating in extracurricular activities will not perform as well. We don't need a trade school we need the basics; **Bernard Lewis:** Don't want tax money to be spent foolishly. He questioned why the school board is pushing this and why is a consultant being used as the voice. Mr. Lewis also had a statement he requested to be attached to the report; **Bill O'Brien:** Why are two models picked to study inferior to McCracken County Schools? Someone needs to look at Murray, conflicts of interest for board members. High performing schools should not be taken advantage of for a few board members; **Joni Sutton:** First concern is size. Graves County administration said we have problems, operating budget is a great concern, location needs to be in a safe place, in front of the mall is top place for accidents in McCracken County; **Rob Bennett:** Concerned about Mr. Heller and Mr. Archer making decisions before ending their last year and timeframe of LPC meetings; **Halle Camilleri:** As a sixth grader we are depending on you to make good decisions, Class of 2015; **Karen Mayfield:** Kids are not mature enough to be around that many people at once, willing to pay more money for small

schools; **Dee Banks**: There needs to be a new Lone Oak High School, land is twenty miles from Reidland High School, concerned about a conflict of interest with property and board members Mr. Archer and Mr. Heine; **Herbie Banks**: Current first and second grades in McCracken County Schools already are too large and need to add on a few years when they get to high school, safety of traveling on interstate 24 on a bus; **Donna Smith**: Requested to bring the decision to a vote and to slow down and take your time before making a quick decision; **David Latham**: Suggested the root of the problem is open enrollment, not opposed to open enrollment, but to the school capacity of each building, no plan if we need to add on in the future, concerned about adding additional expense to the budget; **Laurie Latham**: The issue is dividing the county, public forums are working too fast, Hendron Lone Oak Elementary is 146 students over capacity, concerned about ACT/SAT scores going down; **James Weber**: Extracurricular facilities would need to be part of the new school and estimated cost doesn't include this expense, land on US 60 is in a flood plain, staffing is a huge issue and where is the money coming from, we need to vote; **Lisa Thompson**: People can't afford an increase in property taxes, where are we going to get the money, recommendation would be to build a new Lone Oak High School out Hwy 45 where you were offered 500 acres; **Anne Wallace**: Rivalry is healthy, concerned about security officers being able to cover that many buildings and students in one location; **Karen Clarke**: Concerned about students having to attend four schools, long-term accountability for teachers working with students; **Katina Shannon-Bell**: Self-esteem will be affected in the large school, pressure from peers to compete, suicide becomes higher; **Tina Baker**: Doesn't want child lost in the crowd, children falling through the cracks, increase of gangs, pregnancy and a decrease in extra curricular participation; **Laken Springs**: Against being on a bus for two hours, doesn't want to be pressured into having to know what she wants to be when she grows up; **Trey Griffin**: Everyone needs to vote on Tuesday. **Joe Camilleri**: Focus our schools on 21st century technology, security cameras, requests to keep our schools small; **Erin Outt**: Concerned about the tax rate, Hopkins County is only district around paying more than we are currently being taxed; **Glenda Ritchie**: Not one person has mentioned about handicapped children, concerned about the length of time a student with severe disabilities will be on the bus; **Kurt Sutton**: Part of education is community, let kids be kids, kids in a large school don't have an opportunity for a well-rounded education, current proposed plan has been rushed, right plan not any plan; **Nicky Humphrey**: Kids need to have a chance to play sports, mergers don't work, 10th grade is an important time in a child's life; **Lisa Sullivan**: Difficult for teachers to know students in a large school, pride of community, could only find one article in favor of consolidation; **Tillman Burnett**: You do not have public support for this endeavor, this is the wrong direction for our county, concerned about when Paducah City Schools decides to close, please vote, 708 signatures on a petition, challenged everyone in attendance to speak; **Brent McKinney**: You do not have communities' consent for consolidation, concerned about class size, top priority should be education priorities, statistics are important, academic rankings of Kentucky High Schools show that 7 out of 10 had less than 1,000 students; **Aaron Cypert**: Asked not to split the community over a facility, concerned about property values and operating cost for additional building; **Clarissa White**: Opposed to consolidation; **Marilyn Tucker**: Opposed to consolidation; **Judi Dallins**: Wants her children to go to a small school in a small community; **Ashley Baker**: Open enrollment is causing the problem and is opposed to consolidation; **Leslie Hannah**: Fix open enrollment and then see if you still have a problem before building a new school; **Michelle Bennett**: Against consolidation; **Connie Hawkins**: Against consolidation; **Amy Holland**: Against consolidation; **Misty Gibson**: Concerned about transportation and safety in front of the mall area, strongly opposed to consolidation; **Crystal Warren**: Opposed to consolidation, child is performing better in a small school; **Jason Warren**: Concerned about self-esteem of students; **Chris Miller**: Opposed to consolidation and suggested putting it to a vote; **Casey Miller**: Against consolidation and is concerned about fuel cost; **Donna Babcock**: Large school is a zoo, good reason to move out of McCracken County, buildings do not educate children, career path for high school students is putting too much pressure on them to make a decision, larger schools equal lower test scores; **Valerie Duncan**: We love a small community, you will get lost in the shuffle of a big school, self-esteem is huge, we are trying to grow our kids up to fast;

Cheryl Moore: Opposed to consolidation, need to see financial statement for supporting the new school; **Ryan Burnett:** I want to graduate from Reidland High School; **Regina Williams:** Opposed to consolidation; **Louis Moffitt:** Would like to see the pros and cons, elected officials need to communicate better, sports would be more competitive, statistics show females involved in high school sports are less likely to be involved in sexual crimes in college; **Beverly Watkins:** Opposed to consolidation; **Earl Watkins:** Against consolidation; **Misty Anderson:** Against consolidation, fear gas prices, attendance rate will decrease; **Lee Glisson:** Against consolidation, over 800 opportunities lost for students through sports and academic leadership opportunities, 350 open enrollment students going to other schools will want to come back to the new high school, eight new teachers isn't enough; **Brian Langston:** Opposed to new school; **Karen Edwards:** Opposed to consolidation; **Hannah Cypert:** Against consolidation; **Sidney Banks:** Against consolidation, I want to be on the basketball team; **Terri Werr:** Concerned about long bus rides and safety of students; **Jana Trover:** Against consolidation, fear students will fall through the cracks, concerned about loss of lives, **Howard Walker, Jr.:** Firmly believe you have an obligation as a government official to listen to the people, we are in a crisis in our country and we are going to spend 50 million dollars on a school, you never forget when you have to go and tell parents their child has been killed in a car accident; **Jennifer Flournary:** Opposed to consolidation; **Will Flournary:** Against consolidation, one LPC member said they voted for it because it is going to happen anyway; **Allen Moore:** Requested to let the people vote, commented if you follow the money you find the root of what is going on with this situation; **Vonda Powers:** Opposed to consolidation; **Andrew Powers:** Need to give more money to each individual school; **Julie Edwards:** Against consolidation; **LaCretia Womack:** Against consolidation; **Renee Verbaere:** Against consolidation; **Kara Turner:** Against consolidation; **Danielle Harris:** Concerned about the rivalry still being there when you put 15 year old students together; **Jennifer Burnett:** Safety issue of people driving back and forth on the interstate; **Eli Alexander:** Raised the issue of No Child Left Behind and if this plan will allow us to meet the federal mandates; **Steve Hulen:** Commented that Mr. Heller had said during the Reidland town hall meeting this isn't about consolidation; **Rosie Banks:** As a grandmother I oppose consolidation; **Herbert Banks:** I am against consolidation; **Tony Camilleri:** Against consolidation; **Trevor Jackson:** Questioned LPC membership; **Kristin Mullican:** Struggling as a freshman and believes a large high school would be more difficult; **Buck Mayfield:** Against consolidation; **Jeff Mullican:** In favor of his daughters graduating from Heath High School; **Jeff Wilkins:** Wants the state to know he has been to all of the public forums and he is not in favor of the LPC facilities plan, feels the community doesn't think this is the answer; **Kim Hinzman:** Opposed to consolidation; **Janice Morehead:** You can get a good education at all three high schools, churches and schools are the heart of each community; **Jeff Holland:** Against consolidation as it is planned right now, if you have a problem come up with alternatives, great ideas through brainstorming; **Mary Ann Massey:** Against consolidation; **Carrie Long:** Against consolidation; **Jennifer Robinson:** Opposed to current plan; **Talisha Jones:** Opposed to plan; **Heather Baer:** Opposed as it stands; **Cayce Johnson:** Opposed to consolidation; **Lori Boyles:** Opposed to consolidation; **Dave Carroll:** Opposed to consolidation, top five percent will succeed regardless, we need to look at those in the middle and low achieving students, all students need self-confidence; **Carl Powers:** The answer is to build a new Lone Oak High School; **Micah Blackwell:** The root of the problem is open enrollment; **Jerrie Glisson:** Opposed to consolidation; **Connie Kramer:** People should be allowed to vote, we don't have the extra money for raising taxes to cover the expense of a new school, concerned about the property value if there is a consolidated high school; **David Davis:** A school that big doesn't give you the friendships you get at a small school; **Cori Hinzman:** Reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday; **Marianne Roof:** Hendron Lone Oak and Lone Oak Middle has been a blessing for her child to meet No Child Left Behind requirements, not in favor of consolidation for the sake of students with disabilities; **Sue Camilleri:** Noted the title of her speech is called Pass the Buck, she has contacted administration attempting to get a financial analysis of operating cost and general fund expenditures for the new school and hasn't been given the information; **Peyton Poindexter:** Likes living in a small community and is opposed to consolidation; **Lee Blackburn:** Questioned why teachers aren't here to get

their opinion; **Tracy Miller**: Opposed to consolidation; **Steve Crump**: Opposed to consolidation, concerned about extracurricular opportunities for students in a large high school; **Rick Massey**: We need more ideas to consider; **Tim Massa**: Doesn't believe every avenue has been explored, believes two schools may be the answer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the amendment to the District Facility Plan developed by the McCracken County Local Planning Committee and adopted by the McCracken County Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the McCracken County School District. A copy of the new plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by;

Brian Harper, Hearing Officer

Timothy K. Lucas, KDE Fac. Mgmt.

cc: Mark W. Ryles, Director
Planning File

Attachments: McCracken County School District Facility Plan